

# Native American Environmental Youth Camp

By: Mae Franklin, Navajo Liaison, Kaibab National Forest, September 2010

To the north of Nanaz ah ha, which is the name used by Navajos for Coconino Rim, about a mile and half from the Grand Canyon is Grandview Lookout Tower. That was the site of this year's first-ever youth camp for tribal members from Navajo, Hopi and Zuni the week of Aug. 2.

Native youth participants between the ages of 10 and 14 started the weeklong camp, which was sponsored by Dine College, at Tuba City Boarding School. After two days there, the students headed out to the woods. On Aug. 4, after a 3-mile morning hike on the Bright Angel Trail at Grand Canyon National Park and lunch, the campers were greeted by Forest Service employees Michelle Begay and Mae Franklin. Kaibab National Forest archaeologists Neil Weintraub and Erin Woodard talked with the kids about the role of archaeologists in the Forest Service and challenged them to try the atlatl, an ancient hunting tool.

Rachael Biggs, a Kaibab forester, showed the students how to determine the age of a tree using an increment borer and how to identify dwarf mistletoe invading a pine tree. Kimberly Begay and Richard Piane, Forest Service fire prevention officers, demonstrated how to use various firefighting tools and taught the campers about the complex instruments on fire engines and trucks. Tusayan District Ranger Angela Parker shared her perspective on the unique characteristics of the Tusayan district and answered student questions.

After participating in these learning sessions, the campers climbed into Grandview Lookout Tower, from which they could see Dook 'o'osli'i'd (San Francisco Peaks) to the south, Dzil Dilhili (Red Butte) to the east, Tse l che'e kooh (Grand Canyon) to the north, and beyond the lower basin to the east, Dine bikayah (Navajo land).

Photos available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kaibabnationalforest/sets/72157624965231312/>